Shortage of Urea

321. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of urea and other fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the names of the States where supply of fertilizers was not according to the demands of farmers during the current year; and

(d) the action taken by Government to meet the demand for fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) As against an assessed requirement "of 114.39 lakh MTs, 33.45 lakh MTs and 13.89 lakh MTs of Urea, DAP and MOP respectively, availability has been 116.2 lakh MTs, 36.81 lakh MTs and 22.39 lakh MTs respectively during the Kharif 2005 season. Sales of urea at 107.67 lakh MTs and MOP at 13.25 lakh MTs have been the highest ever so far.

Similarly, as against the assessed requirement of 119.86 lakh MTs, 44.61 lakh MTs and 14.99 lakh MTs Urea, DAP and MOP respectively, availability is expected to be about 127.94 lakh MTs, 46.03 lakh MTs and 18.82 lakh MTs during the current Rabi 2005-06 season.

(d) The Government is encouraging the urea units to produce over and above their installed capacity. Production during April to October, 2005 has been 119.65 lakh MTs which is highest ever so far in this period. In order to further supplement the domestic production, the country has imported about 6.91 lakh MTs of urea upto 31st October, 2005 and further imports of about 14.0 lakh MTs are expected during the remaining part of the season. The Government has also increased the buffer stock of DAP from 2.0 lakh MTs to 8.0 lakh MTs during the current year to compensate the low domestic production of DAP in this year. Low production of DAP is on account of limited availability of Phosphoric Acid in the international market, the main raw material for the production of DAP.